

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DRUG ABUSE SEMINAR

1. AS POSTS AWARE, INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND THE ADDICTIONS (ICAA), PRIVATE NGO, IS CO-SPONSORING WITH MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF THAILAND AND THE NEUROLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF BANGKOK, AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM TO BE HELD IN BANGKOK, FEBRUARY 23-28, 1975. MANY DRUG ABUSE EXPERTS FROM U.S. AND OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PRESENT PAPERS AND WE EXPECT PARTICIPATION AMONG INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS TO BE VERY GOOD.

2. WHITE HOUSE SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION (SAODAP) HAS PROPOSED THAT A DRUG ABUSE SEMINAR BE SPONSORED BY CCINC IN BANGKOK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THAT CONFERENCE. PURPOSE OF SEMINAR WOULD BE TO OFFER TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND DISCUSSIONS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIANS WHO HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION.

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TION (TERM INCLUDES TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, EDUCATION,

AND PREVENTION). SUBJECT OF COURSES CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION WOULD INCLUDE INITIAL INTRODUCTIONS TO DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND INSTRUCTION IN BASIC PHARMACOLOGY, MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TREATMENT APPROACHES, CHEMOTHERAPY, EDUCATION, EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS, RECENT

RESEARCH EFFORTS, AND PROGRAMS ON SPECIFIC AREAS OF DRUG ABUSE SUCH AS TREATMENT OF OPIUM ABUSE AND USE OF ACUPUNCTURE.

3. PRIMARY GOAL OF SEMINAR WOULD BE TO ATTRACT AND SUPPORT ATTENDANCE BY SOUTHEAST ASIANS AT THE ICAA CONFERENCE AND THE SEMINAR, AND SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL FOR THOSE SOUTHEAST ASIANS WHO HAVE RECENTLY BEGUN TO WORK IN THE DRUG ABUSE FIELD AND MAY NOT HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE TRAINING FROM THE UNITED STATES OR OTHER COUNTRIES WITH EXTENSIVE DRUG ABUSE EXPERIENCE. SAO EXPECTS THAT MANY LEADING DRUG ABUSE EXPERTS WHO WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE WILL BE WILLING TO REMAIN IN BANGKOK FOR A FEW EXTRA DAYS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE AS INSTRUCTORS OR LEADERS IN THE SEMINAR. THIS INCLUDES SOME NON-AMERICAN EXPERTS, INCLUDING SOME SOUTHEAST ASIANS. HOPE IS TO ATTRACT SOUTHEAST ASIANS FROM MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WHO MIGHT NOT OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, AND SPECIFICALLY REACH THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION FIELD, ESPECIALLY THOSE INFLUENTIAL IN GROWING CONCERN WITH SEA DRUG PROBLEMS.

4. FOR BANGKOK. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL AS WELL AS EVALUATION OF EXTENT OF POSSIBLE EMBASSY PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM ASAP. WOULD EMBASSY BE IN POSITION TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE, PERHAPS 30 PARTICIPANTS, OR WOULD OUTSIDE ARRANGEMENTS BE NECESSARY? SAO PROPOSES TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE SUPERVISOR TO ASSIST IN PREPARING FOR SEMINAR AS WELL AS DESIGNING COMPLETE PROGRAM, ARRANGING FOR ALL INSTRUCTORS, AND RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS.

5. FOR GENEVA. PLEASE CHECK WITH APPROPRIATE UN AND WHO
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OFFICIALS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH A PROPOSED DRUG ABUSE SEMINAR WILL NOT CONFLICT WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS OR WHO ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AT SAME TIME. SAO HAS ALREADY CONSULTED WITH OFFICIALS OF ICAA WHO SUPPORT IDEA OF USG SEMINAR TO FOLLOW THEIR CONFERENCE. SISCO

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